ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A mail article transportation and stabilization system, and a method of operating the same, for use in conjunction with a camera-based optical character recognition (OCR), bar code reader (BCR), or similar image capture scanning system, comprises a conveyor drive belt for conveying the articles, pieces, or units of mail across a platen assembly within which an optical character recognition (OCR), bar code reader (BCR), or similar image capture camera or the like is positioned and in conjunction with which there is provided a serial array of air plenums for effectively creating an air bearing or air layer upon which the conveyor belt and the articles, pieces, or units of mail are conveyed in a relatively frictionless manner. The incoming pieces, articles, or units of mail are therefore able to be conveyed in a smooth, jitter-free, and stabilized manner whereby scanning, imaging, and reading of the address information contained upon the articles, pieces, or units of mail, as the articles, pieces or units of mail are conveyed past the camera view port, are able to be accurately, clearly, and completely achieved.